



PRESS RELEASE

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BULGARIAN EXTRADITED FROM THAILAND TO WISCONSIN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEROID CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Spartak Todorov, age 32, of Bangkok, Thailand, pleaded guilty today before Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to conspiring to distribute steroids to customers in the United States. Judge Crabb scheduled sentencing for May 27, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. Todorov faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Todorov admitted that he and a fellow conspirator, Kenneth Chen of China, arranged bulk steroid shipments from Shanghai, China to the United States. Customs agents intercepted one of the steroid packages, en route to La Crosse, Wisconsin, at John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, New York. Todorov's La Crosse customer was confronted by law enforcement and explained that he had been purchasing steroids over the internet from Todorov for the past year. Drug Enforcement Administration agents then executed a series of controlled purchases from Todorov over the internet. Records from Todorov's e-mail provider showed that Chen sent steroids to Todorov's customers in the United States. Todorov, a native of Bulgaria, was extradited from Thailand on January 28, 2005 to face charges in federal court.

The charges against Todorov were the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the La Crosse Police Department. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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